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Edward L. Ryerson, Ex-Head Of Inland Steel, Is Dead at 84

CHICAGO, Aug. 2 (UPI)—Edward L. Ryerson, chairman of Inland Steel Company from 1940 to 1953, died early today after a long illness. He was 84 years old.

Survivors are his widow, Nora Butler Ryerson; a daughter, Nora R. Ranney; a son, Edward L. Ryerson Jr.; eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held Wednesday at St. James Episcopal Cathedral here.

Spokesman for Industry

Edward Larned Ryerson, a hereditary Chicago steel man, had a long record of civic activity there and won national recognition as one of the most effective spokesmen for the industry.

Mr. Ryerson was born in Chicago and received his Ph.D. from Yale's Sheffield Scientific School in 1908, followed by further study at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He became president of Joseph T. Ryerson & Son, Inc., founded in 1942, which was the largest independent steel and iron service concern in the country when it was merged in 1935 with Inland Steel, the largest independent manufacturers.

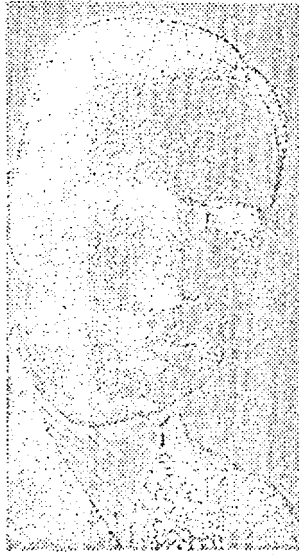
Mr. Ryerson became vice chairman and then chairman in 1940, stepping down at the age of 66 in 1953. In 1951 the steel industry had given him the Gary Memorial Medal, its highest award, in recognition of public relations efforts on its behalf.

Headed Relief Board

He was president of the Chicago Council of Social Agencies, later the Welfare Council, from 1927 to 1936, and in 1930 was appointed to the Governor's Commission on Unemployment and Relief, serving as chairman of the Illinois Emergency Relief Commission in 1932-33.

Shortly after World War II broke out in Europe, Mr. Ryerson said in a New York speech that business men wanted no business improvement "resulting directly or indirectly from war." For a time he supported the "America First" movement, opposing American involvement in the conflict. He resigned a few weeks before Pearl Harbor, stating that the country could find itself at war "at any moment" and calling for "unified action by all our people."

In 1917 he had been commissioned a first lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps, assigned to aircraft production. He qualified as a pilot and became a captain. A son, Morton



1942

Edward L. Ryerson

Ryerson, was killed in action in the Army Air Force in 1944.

A Republican in politics, Mr. Ryerson was a delegate to the party's 1940 and 1944 conventions and in 1952 became president of the Republican Citizens' Finance Committee of Illinois.

He was chairman emeritus of the Hospital Planning Commission of Metropolitan Chicago, a past president of the Community Fund of Chicago and of the John Crerar Library and a past chairman of the National Committee for Foundations and Trusts for Community Welfare. He had been a fellow of the Yale Corporation from 1932 to 1944, chairman of the trustees of the University of Chicago and president of the Orchestral Association of Chicago from 1938 to 1952.

Mr. Ryerson also had been a lay delegate to General Conventions of the Episcopal Church in 1940 and 1946 and a member of the National Lay Committee of the National Council of Churches. He was a former trustee of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In 1958 he headed a delegation of American steel executives who toured the Soviet Union and who, on their return, said they were "greatly impressed" by its steel production. He concluded that the United States should substantially increase steel industry research.

Mr. Ryerson was appointed by President Eisenhower to his Board of Consultants on Foreign Intelligence Activities, set up in 1956 to keep permanent watch over the Central Intelligence Agency and other agencies engaged in foreign intelligence.

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